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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Yakovu: Nicosia Won't Block Turkey's EU Drive - Hurriyet  
Pentagon Sources: US to Pull Back 37,000 Troops From Iraq  
Next Year - Sabah  
Iraqi Insurgents Bargain With US Over Life of Saddam - Sabah  
Sharon Sees a 'First' Opportunity for Peace - Sabah  
Palestine to Follow Gandhi's 'Civil Disobedience' - Milliyet  
Graham Fuller Sees Turkey on Right Track, US Erroneous -  
Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Molyviatis Calls for Removal of Barriers Between Greece,  
Turkey - Yeni Safak  
Bush, Sharon Discuss Jewish Settlements in Texas - Radikal  
Sharon Asks Bush for Support for Withdrawal Plan -  
Cumhuriyet  
Another Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq - Radikal  
LA Times: Do Not Write Off the Turks - Cumhuriyet  
Fuller: Turkey Not Anti-American, Only Sovereign - Zaman  
Fight for Power in Kyrgyzstan - Cumhuriyet  
Bush, Zarkawi Among TIME's '100 Most Influential People' -  
Yeni Safak  
Former Arch-Enemies China, India Now Strategic Partners -  
Zaman

BRIEFING

Erdogan Visits Norway: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in  
Oslo on an official visit, addressed Monday Turks living in  
Norway on the Armenian and Kurdish issues and the situation  
of human rights in Turkey, papers report. 'The PKK is a  
terrorist organization,' Erdogan said, emphasizing: 'It is a  
mistake to characterize all Kurds, citizens of Turkey, as  
members of the PKK.' 'There is no Kurdish minority in  
Turkey,' Erdogan said: 'The Kurdish people are a main  
element of our country.' 'We have allowed language courses  
in Kurdish and broadcasts in Kurdish. However, no one  
should expect us to allow a terrorist organization's banners  
to be carried in the country,' he added. Erdogan warned  
that Turkey had three 'red lines' -- ethnic nationalism,  
regional nationalism and religious nationalism, and blamed  
some Western 'circles' for attempting to divide Turkey.  
'The EU is not a Christian club,' Erdogan noted, 'it is the  
outcome of compromise among civilizations.' Erdogan  
'regretted' recently seeing negative attitudes toward Turks  
and Muslims living in European countries: 'It's impossible  
to understand such attitudes against Turks and Muslims in a  
time when the world focuses on dialogue among civilizations  
and cultures,' he said. On the Armenian 'genocide' claims,  
Erdogan said the Turkish parliament will hold a special  
session on the issue on April 13. He said a declaration to  
be signed by the 550 lawmakers in the parliament will be  
sent to the parliaments of several countries.

Ankara Calls On Baku for a Fast Solution to the Nagorno-  
Karabakh Problem: Ankara conveyed to Baku a message urging  
a fast resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem on the eve  
of a general assembly discussion on Wednesday in the Turkish  
parliament of the Armenian 'genocide' claims, "Radikal"  
reports. Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Deputy U/S Ahmet  
Uzumcu called on the Azerbaijani foreign ministry last month  
to not 'delay' opportunities for a solution. Unidentified  
MFA officials told "Radikal" that a resolution of the  
problem in line with the interests of all parties would  
'relieve' Ankara as well. "Radikal" regards the message as  
part of the Turkish action plan for countering efforts by  
the Armenian diaspora on the 90th anniversary of the  
'genocide.' Ankara believes that if the Nagorno-Karabakh  
question is settled, it may take a 'flexible' position in

dealing with both 'genocide' claims and Yerevan, the paper comments.

**Kocharyan: Armenia Has No Territorial Claims Against Turkey:** Armenian President Robert Kocharyan told students at Yerevan State University that they should be 'realistic' in dealing with the Armenian 'genocide' issue, "Milliyet" reports. 'Armenia has never raised territorial claims against Turkey,' Kocharyan said, adding that international recognition of Armenian genocide claims is on their agenda. 'Future Armenian leaders and politicians will decide what legal consequences this may have. We need to be realistic,' Kocharyan said.

**Molyviatis Due in Ankara:** Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis is due in Ankara Tuesday to discuss improvement of bilateral ties, Cyprus, and Turkey's EU drive, papers report. Molyviatis' visit is expected to enhance ongoing dialogue and cooperation between Turkey and Greece, unidentified diplomatic sources told the Anatolian Nes Agency on Tuesday. Bilateral relations between Turkey and Greece are developing toward 'partnership,' the sources said. They recalled that 11 confidence-building measures had been adopted in the Aegean and that new confidence-building measures were under discussion. Papers recall Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc's suggestions over the weekend that Turkey revise a 1995 parliamentary declaration which stipulates that a Greek extension of territorial waters to 12 miles would be a 'cause for war.' Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul dismissed any revision in Turkey's position the following day, and papers expect the Turkish side to play down the Arinc suggestion during talks with Molyviatis.

**US Embassy Dragged Into 'Cola Wars':** Economic/political daily "Referans" reports that Ambassador Edelman conveyed to PM Erdogan and some cabinet ministers complaints by Coca-Cola and Pepsi over unfair competition in the Turkish market. Coca-Cola and Pepsi released a joint statement last week protesting that Turkey's "Ulker" food group was being allowed into the sector without getting a license for production of sugar syrup for its "Cola Turca." Turkish government shrugged off the complaint, and Ambassador Edelman had to repeat it to authorities several times, says the report. "Referans" has earlier reported on March 8 that Ulker became a partner to the US firm Cargill in the production of starch-based sugar. The Turkish government has not promised a solution, but is working on a new sugar law, says "Referans."

**ECHR Expected to Ask for Retrial of Ocalan:** The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) is to announce its decision next week calling for a retrial of Abdullah Ocalan, the imprisoned leader of the separatist PKK organization, reports "Vatan." The AK Party government had been denied by the powerful National Security Council (NSC) and the opposition CHP in its efforts to remove legal barriers to the retrial of Ocalan through legal adjustments, according to "Vatan."

**Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq:** Turkish truck driver Cevat Bahtiyar was killed in Bayji, north of Baghdad, early Monday by a roadside bomb aimed at Bahtiyar's convoy that was ferrying goods to the US military, papers report. Some 90 Turkish truck drivers have been killed in Iraq since the occupation of the country by US forces, say reports.

**EDITORIAL OPINION: Middle East/Turkish Foreign Policy**  
"The Middle East Lessons"  
Cengiz Candar observed in the conservative-sensational DB Tercuman (4/11): "My recent trip to Beirut provided a remarkable experience to observe how strongly the winds of democracy are blowing in the Middle East. The current situation in Iraq is another good example of that. . I am now attending an international conference in Qatar where a vast variety of speakers from different nations have met, including former politicians from the regional countries, as well as Americans and Turks. In the course of debates one thing becomes very clear to me. Turkey's argument that it is a pivotal country for Middle East issues is totally unrealistic and nothing but 'Turks making propaganda for Turks.' . Turkey should realize sooner, not later, that moving enthusiastically toward the EU accession target would provide us a meaningful place with the US and the Islamic World. Derailing from the EU track can only take Turkey completely out of the loop in both the US and the Middle East. . The current meeting between PM Sharon and President Bush is very important and its results will directly affect the future course of the Israel-Palestine dispute. If the US administration fails to be convincingly tough with Sharon, the Middle East could experience a very violent period again. . Meanwhile, our president's upcoming visit to Damascus seems nothing but sailing in the open seas without a compass."

"Foreign Policy Agenda"

Ilter Turkmen warned in the mass appeal Hurriyet (4/11):  
"The Turkish president's upcoming visit to Syria is without doubt an untimely and unfortunate policy decision. The argument that the visit was on the agenda long before the current international debate is not helping to correct the error. If it had been, Turkey should have postponed the visit right after UNSC Resolution 1559. This visit will not only upset the people of Lebanon but also all western and Arab countries which are supportive of the UNSC resolution. Let's be realistic. How convincing is it to say that the Turkish president will convey certain messages to Damascus when there is already a UNSC resolution that has been supported by the US, the EU and Arab World? One way or the other, the Turkish president's visit to Damascus will be interpreted as Turkey's support for Syria. It is very difficult to understand Turkish foreign policy priorities in the Middle East."

EDELMAN